



The Newsletter for the Members of the Owasippe Staff Association

Vibrations

2014, Volume 36, Issue 3

Significant Rehab Progress Made At Guest Lodge; Funding Still Needed

by Ron Kulak, Guest Lodge Task Force

Here is an update on Guest Lodge (GL) projects still to be done and work that has been completed. We've made great progress on full restoration.

Pictures can be found on the OSA's website, Owasippe.com, and its Facebook page.

Work still to be done on or after the OSA Fix-It Weekend, September 19-21:

- 1) Install baseboard trim in bedrooms and hallway
 - 2) Hang mirrored cabinets and towel rods in both bathrooms
 - 3) Move the computer server cage in the Radio Room about 6-8 feet to the right
 - 4) Hang window screens
 - 5) Install a deadbolt on the Radio Room closet door
 - 6) Install closet shelves to support PCs and radio equipment
 - 7) Create a utility closet (with louvered door) in the main bathroom
 - 8) Mount the original kitchen entrance door on a wall (for aesthetics and nostalgia)
 - 9) Hang building signage
 - 10) Hang garment hooks in bathroom hallway
 - 11) Check for sufficient caulking between beams and remedy if necessary (winterize old lodge walls)
 - 12) Build a fire pit near the GL
- Possible other GL tasks (depending on funding



and volunteers): install deck railings in between 4x4 uprights on porch, install split rail fence at end of driveway to prevent people from driving over new well water line, establish a better, more upright barrier to the septic field so cars can be prevented from driving on top of it.

Final GL inspections were done by Blue Lake Township and were satisfactory, so we have a use permit for the building. We are awaiting an occupancy certificate from the fire department with a headcount, but we think that will come in at 24. Electric and water works are all good, i.e., water feeds and drain lines are all functional. Water tests should be back any day from Muskegon County and we expect them to be satisfactory. The GL kitchen was gutted and completely restored with new cabinets, stainless sink, granite countertop, stove/oven, refrigerator, and microwave thanks to generous donations from several Friends Of Owasippe.

The new septic lines, tank, and field are in and certified by Muskegon County as is the new water well. The well head is on the opposite side of the Guest Lodge on a slope half-way to the dam service road. That was the only place where it could be in

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Vice President's Perspective

by Kurt Wolff-Klammer, OSA Vice President

During this past spring and summer I was able to make a few trips to Owasippe. While at camp, I was able to see many great programs and hear camper's stories about their fun activities.



Over the course of my visits, starting in April for the first MOB (Make Owasippe Better) work weekend and ending during the weekend before fifth period, I was also able to see many changes to the camps. Many of these changes came through the great volunteers that make Owasippe great. Many were made possible through the CAC property committee that committed to spending one million dollars before the end of this year.

Some of the highlights from my trips:

- I was very excited to see the shotgun shelter and the modification made to the rifle range at Wolverine being used. (Done during the OSA Fix-it)
- I had a great night's sleep on one of the new mattresses at Reneker.
- I was also excited to see new metal roofs installed on many buildings, including the Blackhawk Dining Hall and Health Lodge.
- I stopped by Guest Lodge and was able to see the great progress that is being done. Guest Lodge should be ready to use starting this winter.
- It was nice to see the new archery targets and seven new canopies (purchased by the OSA).
- Work was being completed on the Museum, including new siding and a new roof.

I am looking forward to the continued improvements to Owasippe. Along with that, I can't wait to see many of our members at future OSA events. The Fall Fix-it is September 19 – 21 and the Pub Crawl at the Lemont Lap is October 11. ♣

Guest Lodge (cont. from p. 1)

compliance with the county. We added a second bathroom for handicap access and have installed an outside water spigot.

Insulation will be professionally blown into the annex attic crawlspace by September. The interior painting and staining will be done sometime in mid-September by volunteers. We are contracting to have the floor prepped and painted with a heavy-duty epoxy application during the last week of August which will cost just under \$6,000. Final electrical work in September includes the installation of baseboard heaters throughout the

GL as well as the restoration of the gothic main lodge chandelier with new wiring and light fixtures. The GL is now an all-electric building with new wiring and circuitry and is also cable-ready. There is no more propane gas. We are restoring the grand old stone fireplace in the main lodge.

The new annex that replaced the old carport has added two bedrooms to the one remaining bedroom which will be the Radio Outpost. One old middle bedroom was sacrificed to provide a handicap accessible bathroom and a hallway connecting the main lodge with the two new bedrooms. The original bathroom was gutted and given a good size shower stall. Both bathrooms and the kitchen are fully functional and now serviced by on-demand electric water heaters. All new rooms have been drywalled with knotty pine wainscoting on the lower walls. The rooms have a very woody feel to them. As previously reported, all of the GL windows have been replaced with far more energy efficient Jeldwyn windows. A concrete ramp has been added to the new open-air porch for handicap access and a concrete patio has been added which ties into the old sidewalk. The old and new structures were fitted with a steel roof, the first of its kind at Owasippe. A 15-ft flag pole has been



erected adjacent to the porch.

Eight bunk beds (16 individual beds) have been purchased thanks to the generosity of three CAC Board Members via a Chicago-area manufacturer. Assembly is planned for the OSA Fix-it Weekend.

Building restoration is two months away from completion. CAC and the Properties Committee want to start renting out the Guest Lodge to units and families come October. STEM projects for next summer are still being reviewed. The 55-ft. radio tower is on site and is laying horizontal on the ground awaiting installation. Other potential uses of the Guest Lodge beyond the Radio Outpost

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OSA Fall Fix-It Weekend September 19-20, 2014

Well, another summer has come to an end and that means the Fall Fix-it is right around the corner, on the weekend of September 19-20. There is plenty to do, and autumn is a beautiful time of year to head up to Owasippe!

We will meet at Food Prep for breakfast at 7:30 a.m. Michigan (Eastern) time on Saturday morning. All meals are being provided by CAC.

Bring your cordless drills, saws, hammers, and willingness to help!

RSVP: osafixit@gmail.com or 847-677-1688

MOB (Making Owasippe Better) Oct. 3-5, 2014

Volunteer to help improve Owasippe this fall at a MOB Weekend on October 3-5. Several skilled and unskilled labor will be held to improve the camp.

For MOB Work Weekends please let them know approximately 12 days before the date of the weekend that you would like to attend (Earlier the Better!) so that we can

by September 12 to ensure we have enough food.

WHAT WILL YOU BE HELPING WITH?

•We will be doing road crew, painting, roofing, carpentry, general repairs, etc.

PLEASE NOTE:

- 1) Persons under 18 MUST be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.
- 2) Alcohol is strictly prohibited on Owasippe property.
- 3) Ground fires are not allowed by Reneker Cabins.

properly arrange Food & Housing/Camping for you.

Please let us know if you have any special food requirements, if you would like to camp or be in a building, and if you have any special trade skills. To participate in MOB Weekend please email: makingowasippebetter@gmail.com or contact: Bob Landmichl (773) 318-0871

Adventures in Local Dining with Kurt and Caitlin

by Caitlin Boline, OSA board member

This Stop: Overboard Inn (6027 Main Street, Twin Lake, Michigan)

While Gary's in Whitehall seems to be the preferred place to grab breakfast (especially on Sundays before check-in!), Kurt and I were ready to discover a new place nearby with equally delicious fare and perhaps less wait time.

During our lunch at the Shipwreck Inn in Twin Lake last summer, we noticed the Overboard Inn across the street. To be honest, from the outside we couldn't quite tell what it was and thought perhaps it could be a motel. During the off-season, we caught wind that they

served not only breakfast, but a mean stuffed hashbrown as well, so we visited as soon as we were both up at camp!

Kurt and I stopped by the Overboard Inn for lunch and we were pleasantly surprised by the interior! On the outside, the Overboard Inn doesn't have much curb appeal, but on the inside it is very clean, very comfortable, bright, and spacious. The waitresses are very nice and friendly. Kurt chose the burger and I the BLT, which were both very delicious and served in a timely manner. On two separate occasions, I had the further privilege of dining for breakfast with Geoff Gawne and another time with Ron Derby and my favorite girls (Susan, Maggie, Mo, Rachel, Laura, and Bridget) for morning breakfast. No matter the group size I have arrived with, the staff is friendly and there is absolutely NO wait time to be seated. Additionally, the famous stuffed hashbrowns are INDEED DELICIOUS! I am also partial to the homemade cinnamon breakfast bread.

If you are looking for a new place for breakfast (or lunch!) that is clean, friendly, delicious, and seats you right away, give the Overboard Inn a try! Drive past Reneker and turn right at the first stop sign. Keep going until you hit Twin Lake, Overboard will be on your right! Happy Dining! ♣



Vibrations always needs copy...

Send your Owasippe memories, stories, pictures, news items, grapevine tidbits, or editorial comments to:

OSA Vibrations
P.O. Box 7097
Westchester, IL 60154

Preferred Method



e-mail: vibrations@owasippe.com

2014 Spring Fix-it

by Edgar Wolff-Klammer, Fix-it chair

The 2014 Spring Fix-it was a great example of OSA teamwork. We had 60 people attend. They formed into different groups to do various jobs all over camp. This included repairing the Cooks' Cabin behind food prep, completing the work at the Crown Chapel, Picnic Table Assembly, new overhang above the fuel dispensers at maintenance, new Wolverine rifle range roof extension and new Wolverine shotgun shelter.

A BIG THANK YOU to Frank Chlebek, Bill Lotter, Diane, Kurt, Scott and Eric Wolff-Klammer for coming up early on Friday and for all their help getting the Wolverine rifle range started. Because of everyone's help that weekend, Owasippe is a better camp. We hope to see you in September! ♣



Owasippe Career Paths: Teachers (cont. from April newsletter)

by Caitlin Boline, OSA board member

People have many reasons for wanting to be on staff at Owasippe. One reason that is probably the most relevant is the desire to work with children. So it should come as no surprise that many Owasippe staffers later became educators, or were drawn to Owasippe due to their experience or want to work with children.

Due to overwhelming response, this is a continuation from the Spring newsletter. If you have a career path you would like to see highlighted by Owasippe staffers/friends, please send your ideas and applicable emails to caitlinboline@gmail.com.

Jerry Lutz

Jerry served on staff at Camp Betz on the '65 and '66 staff before he began teaching. Many of you know him as an Owasippe fixture at the Wolverine shooting range, although the position "Reservation Director" is also on his camp resume. His Alma mater is Eastern Illinois where he obtained five degrees, notably EdSp in Education Administration. He recently retired after 36 years of teaching (34 of those at the same location) mostly teaching 8th grade English as well as coaching. He currently serves as a substitute teacher for his previous school. "I learned more about teaching in 3 1/2 years as a USMC officer than in any college degree program."

Kristin Mazanowski

While working at OSR didn't specifically guide her career path, Kristin does credit her camp experience with giving her her first taste of independence, which prepared her for going away to college. She received her Bachelors degree from Augustana College in Accounting and Finance and her Graduate degree at Roosevelt University in Secondary Education. She currently teaches high school business education at Maine West in Des Plaines, IL. Kristin comes from a long line of Owasippe staff! Her first summer at Owasippe occurred when she was less than a month old and she spent every summer there for 13 years. Her father, siblings, and now her niece have all served on Owasippe staff, and her own children are campers at Reneker.

Linda Monahan

Linda worked at Family Camp for nine years in both Aquatics and program. She graduated from Illinois State University in 1972 and consequently taught for 35 years in Tinley Park school district 146. During her time teaching she taught Kindergarten, 2nd, and 3rd Grades. Owasippe, she says, helped her to become comfortable speaking in large groups, as well as teaching her organizational skills that she put to good use planning for the next school year during the summers. After retiring in 2007, she moved to Interlochen, Michigan with her husband Pat. She

currently spends retired life teaching bridge and assisting seniors with their computer skills.

Pat Monahan

Pat Monahan taught English at both Homewood-Flossmoor High School and Downers Grove High School, including some college level classes. He earned his undergraduate degree from Benedictine University in 1972 and went right to Southern Illinois to obtain his Masters in English. He also completed Doctorate coursework at Northwestern University in the early 80s. He also stays very involved in the professional English groups NCTE and CEL. His tenure at Owasippe included serving on staffs at Camp Stuart, Blackhawk, Wolverine South, and Ad Center. Working at Owasippe helped Pat to hone his administrative and leadership skills which he put to use serving as the English Chair during his career. Pat now spends retired life traveling and enjoying Northern Michigan life.

Mary Beth Niziol

Already knowing that she wanted to be a teacher, Owasippe gave Mary Beth the opportunity to work with children and begin developing her curriculum planning skills. She received her Bachelors in Special Education from Illinois State and her Masters in Reading from Northern Illinois. She also furthered her studies at Concordia and holds National Board Certification in English Language Arts. She is currently a Reading Specialist at Gurrie Middle School in La Grange and will be retiring in June 2015. Additionally, she teaches English Language Learners through a volunteer program in the western suburbs.

Kurt Wolff-Klammer

Starting at age 16, Kurt worked at Blackhawk for many years, with his most recent position serving as High Adventure Assistant Director last summer. As a young staffman, he really enjoyed watching scouts grow and develop year to year as they would return to camp. He earned his Education degree in Mathematics Education from Northern Illinois University. He is currently a long-term sub at Lyons Township High School, and was excited to hear that one of his students will be working at Owasippe this upcoming summer.

Carl Young

Carl is a Physical Education teacher at St. Mary of the Woods Elementary School in Chicago. He received his bachelor's degree from Northeastern Illinois University. He discovered that he enjoyed working with youth through working at Owasippe. He says that "summers off to go to camp was an added bonus." ♣

Guest Lodge (cont. from p. 1)

next summer are as a computer lab, photo lab, and a weather station. WiFi will be installed as soon as the radio antenna tower goes up, hopefully still this month. That is a first for the GL.

Funds are running slim in the GL Project Fund, so we are in need of monetary reinforcements from anyone willing to donate to the cause. Otherwise, we'll have to dip into OSA reserves which would detract from other future camp projects. Please also refer other Friends Of Owasippe and other organizations. Total remaining expenditures are estimated to be just under \$12,000, assuming use of some volunteer labor. So far, the OSA has expended over \$70,000 to resurrect the Guest Lodge and give it new life as a meaningful multi-purpose program facility.

Contributions can be paid and sent to Owasippe Staff Assoc., PO Box 7097, Westchester, IL 60154. Just memo "Guest Lodge Project" for earmarking the funds. PLEASE HELP HOWEVER YOU CAN!

Thank you to those who have already generously contributed! We appreciate everyone's interest and support in this team effort. It is the grandest and most ambitious task that the OSA has ever supported and taken on for the benefit of Owasippe...and well worth the funding. ♣

Orange Trail at Sunrise

by Susan Derby

This summer, the Reneker staff resurrected a tradition started by Michelle O'Connor a decade ago. We hit the trail at 5 a.m. with any brave camper or staffer willing to join us that early to hike the entire orange trail around Lake Wolverine (Water!). While some weeks had only one camper with some staff, other weeks had 18 happy hikers. The reward for waking up so early on a Friday morning was a chance to watch the sun rise over the trees and trails of Owasippe.

The orange trail has been a favorite of mine because of all its highlights. We hike up the two-track road from Reneker until we meet up with the orange trail in Wolverine South. From there, hikers see the Wolverine Chapel, the dam, Guest Lodge, Crown Chapel, Crown boat docks, Carlen boat docks, Sauger Lake, Deuces Wild, the old ferry crossing, and two footbridges before meeting back up with Route 5 to Reneker. Brave hikers can scale a steep hill for a side hike to COPE as well.

In between all those landmarks, we caught many beautiful lake views and cool breezes. Most weeks, we arrived at the dam just as the sky was turning pink with the sunrise. This is a great trail

for all skill levels of hikers. There are about four main hills to conquer, but the rest is rolling trail that is well marked.

We kept our eyes peeled for wildlife each week. Deer, otter, turtles, loons, ducks, bullfrogs, and countless bird varieties scampered off as we hiked by. It was common to find some early morning fishermen from the other camps along the route, most often at the dam. That was where we would stop and I would share some history of the camp property. It was also a great place to show off the Guest Lodge improvements and share the possible uses of the building as a STEM facility at camp.

The entire orange loop is about 5.2 miles and takes about two and a half hours to complete. With the additional hike to and from Reneker, it was a 6.6 mile hike that took three hours. Our pace was fairly brisk, but we would enjoy a few rest breaks, especially at the Crown Chapel. ♣

Owasippeadventure.com

by Greg Brunet

The Chicago Area Council Camping Committee is excited to announce the new Owasippe Marketing website is up and running. The site, owasippeadventure.com, is built on the theme of "The Adventure Begins at Owasippe" and its goal is to build attendance by sharing our story with as many families as possible. It brings together all of the great programs available at camp and presents them in an exciting and fun manner. The site also provides the viewer all the information needed about each of our camps on the reservation, as well as presenting a great picture of what a new Troop can expect to experience at Owasippe.

The aim of "The Adventure Begins at Owasippe" is to spark the interest of Scouters, Scouts and parents, alike. We need to reach all three of these targeted audiences in order to stabilize and increase attendance at Owasippe. The "Explore" page on the website explores all the fun activities Scouts, adults and families can experience at Owasippe Scout Reservation through photos with captions. The "Explore" page takes you through a week's stay from the opening campfire to the closing campfire and all the activities in between.

Parents are a critical audience often overlooked in our efforts to get Scouts to camp. While we get a good percentage of our Council's Troops to camp, often we find that only a small number of the Scouts within the Troop are attending Owasippe. Parents are a difficult audience to reach effectively, especially when it comes to explaining the value of a Scouting summer camp experience. Owasippeadventure.com will help the Scoutmaster

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Galloping Grapevine



Sandy Romcoe and Carl Himpelmann welcomed a baby girl on August 23, 2014. Madison Himplemann is 5 lbs 11 ounces and 18 inches long.

Barbara T. Lea graduated from DePaul University with a Master's of Science in Science Education on June 15, and continues teaching as a CPS hospital teacher. She's trying her hand at raising chickens in her new home.

Staff People of the Year 2014:

Reneker: Whitney Thorne

Blackhawk (Over 21): Ray Gawne

Blackhawk (Under 21): Tom Kase

Wolverine (Over 21): Ed Stypka

Wolverine (Under 21): Mike Escobedo

Owasippeadventure.com (cont.)

present the camping experience at Owasippe to parents. We will assist the Scoutmaster by targeting Scout families directly through mailers.

Owasippe has had some success in attracting out-of-council Troops, but there is much more potential in building attendance, especially since camps across the Midwest are closing. The website will be a valuable tool in explaining the "Owasippe Adventure" and attracting Scout Troops from other areas of the country.

One of the advantages Owasippe has is Reneker Family Camp. The Reneker family camping option is fully explored on the website. The marketing campaign will emphasize "Make it a Family Vacation" and should be an attractive feature for families in our Council and to Troops traveling longer distances.

In addition, look for an unusual banner ad in Scouting Magazine to run all winter starting in September. It has a basic message, "America's Premier Scout Camp", and invites the reader to go to Owasippeadventure.com to find out more. The website is our ad and informs so much more than any print ad can.

It should be noted that while Owasippeadventure.com is very respectful of Owasippe's rich tradition, it is a forward-looking site. The site is about today and the adventure that awaits our Scouts in the years to come. For us who have made Owasippe our summer home for years, it will definitely elicit fond memories but its real purpose is to offer opportunity for Scouts. ♣

OSA Pub Crawl Oct. 11

This year's crawl is Saturday, October 11th from 5-11 p.m. in Lemont, IL. The cost is \$20 per person, which gets you a Pub Crawl T-shirt and helps offset crawl costs. Sign up and get more info at Owasippe.com in the Important Dates section. The registration deadline is September 25th.

Rose Clemente and Mary Tyeptanar Memorial Firebowl Dedication by Caitlin Boline, OSA board member

If you have ever met Rose Clemente or Mary Tyeptanar, you were lucky for very different reasons. Rose, always quiet, sweet and calm, and her good friend Mary, outspoken, friendly, and hilariously crude were very important fixtures and friends at Camp Owasippe, especially Camp Reneker. Both women loved life, loved their families, and both equally loved Owasippe. They served together on the religious committee representing both the North and South sides of the council. They brought their families to Reneker and came back year after year, faithful supporters of the scouting program and family camping. In the two years that Rose and less than a year that Mary has gone, this summer would have marked the first summer since the mid-60s that Owasippe would not have either Rose and Mary in attendance. The staff of Camp Reneker (with help from past Camp Director, Candy Merritt) decided to dedicate our firebowl to two lovely women who deserved recognition but never sought to receive it.

Despite the chance of rain, Friday, July 25th was a calm, comfortable night at camp. Family, friends, and scouters gathered, filling the Reneker firebowl to the brim, with dozens standing without a place to sit. Before the scheduled Friday Reneker fire, two women were remembered and recognized for their dedication and love for scouting and for Owasippe. ♣



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Vibrations is published four times per year by the Owasippe Staff Association.

Editor: Pete Kulak

The opinions stated by contributors to **Vibrations** are those of the authors and are not by fact of publication necessarily those of the Owasippe Staff Association or its Board of Directors. Publication does not imply endorsement. All materials are subject to editing.

Articles, tidbits, photos and artwork are encouraged. E-mail all such materials to: **vibrations@owasippe.com**. Submissions can also be made by mail to: **OSA Vibrations Editor, P.O. Box 7097, Westchester, IL 60154**.

All materials which the author wants returned must be accompanied by a self addressed stamped envelope.

Deadlines for submitting materials for publication are as follows:

- Spring (Issue 1) January 15
- Summer (Issue 2) April 1
- Fall (Issue 3) August 7
- Winter (Issue 4) October 15

Dates of Interest to OSA Members

September

- 1..... Labor Day
- 8..... Shopping/Gift card deadline
- 19-21 Fall Fix-it

October

- 3-5 MOB (Make Owasippe Better) Work Weekend
- 10-11 Owasippe Lodge #7 Trade-o-ree
- 11..... OSA Pub Crawl
- 15..... Vibrations submissions deadline
- 31..... Halloween

November

- 11..... Veterans Day
- 27..... Thanksgiving

December

- 24..... Boxing Day
- 25..... Christmas
- 31..... New Year's Eve

